

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 53 of 1876.

## REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 30th December 1876.

The *Bishwa Suhrid*, of the 13th December, remarks that, by one act only, did Sir Richard Temple earn some degree of popularity on his accession to the Lieutenant-Governorship of this province. The prominent part he took in suppressing the Behar Famine, coupled with the fact that the administration of Sir George Campbell was exceedingly unpopular with the natives of Bengal, accounts for the many eulogies passed on Sir Richard during the earlier period of his rule. But the people have now discovered him to be a man whose acts fall far short of his professions. The instructions which he has lately issued, in connection with relief operations in Eastern Bengal, betray unmistakeably the niggardliness of his disposition, as well as a sad want of sympathy with the sufferers.

BISHWA SUHRID,  
December 13th, 1876.

2. The same paper prays Government for the release of the old Wahabee convict, Amir Khan, on the occasion of the Imperial Assemblage. His case should be favorably considered, even if but one prisoner be set free in Bengal.

BISHWA SUHRID.

3. The changes proposed in the Rent Law by Sir Richard Temple, says the same paper, if adopted, will raise some important questions in connection with the subject; for instance, the rent-rate of tenants-at-will, the crops produced or which may be grown on disputed land. They will also create a distinct class of tenant-right, while confirming the status of the occupancy tenants. The privilege of transferring occupancy holdings, now proposed to be conferred on the ryots, will be exceedingly beneficial to them, though it may encroach a little on the rights of the landlord. Provision, however, has been made to facilitate the realization of rents. In this respect, amendment is greatly needed.

BISHWA SUHRID.

4. The same paper objects to the hasty manner in which the Dramatic Performances Bill has been passed into law. This measure, it is to be feared, will afford room for oppression; while it will act as a check on the development of the native drama and on the liberty of the press. It is to be regretted that the Council did not wait a little longer to hear what the public had to say against its introduction. The writer then re-produces the arguments urged by the British Indian Association in their memorial against the Bill.

BISHWA SUHRID.

5. The *Rungpore Dik Prakásh*, of the 14th December, exhorts all Hindus to cultivate feelings of sympathy and friendship towards their Mahomedan fellow-subjects. This has, indeed, now become apparently a necessity; as no progress can be reasonably expected, so long as they remain hostile to each other. The Editor takes the occasion to ask the Hindus to co-operate with the Mahomedans in raising subscriptions for the relief of the sick and wounded in the Turkish War.

RUNGPORE DIK  
PEAKASH,  
December 14th, 1876.



RUNGPORE DIX  
PRAKASH,  
December 14th, 1876.

6. The same paper directs the attention of the Educational authorities to the necessity of adopting a higher standard of education in English and Sanskrit, for the students of the middle-class English schools, who compete for the minor scholarships. At present they learn but little of these languages before their admission into the second form of higher class English schools, where they are required to keep pace with boys preparing for the Entrance Examination of the University.

BHARAT  
SANGSKARAK,  
December 18th, 1876.

7. The *Bhārat Sangskārak*, of the 18th December, observes, in an article of considerable length, on the "Northern Bengal State Railway," that the heavy expenditure, incurred by Major Lindsay, in making proper arrangements for the recent Durbar of the Lieutenant-Governor at Nattore and Sydpore, two stations on the aforesaid railway, will, doubtless, be debited to the account of the Public Works Department; though, for an alleged want of funds, the work of the Rungpore branch railway line has been discontinued this year; perhaps to be done over again at double the original cost on a subsequent occasion. Considering, however, that such extravagant expenditure is a marked feature of the Public Works Department, the officer in question may not be open to any serious blame. It is a curious fact, in connection with this department, that, for any of its shortcomings, the censures of Government are passed, not on the individual officers concerned, but on the department, in the abstract. We shall here notice a few things in connection with the Northern Bengal State Railway. The task of constructing this line has been entrusted to Major Lindsay and an adequate staff of Public Works officers. All of them, without a single exception, are incompetent men; while the unfitness of some for the work has been signally brought to light by their previous failures in similar undertakings. Though surveys, and other necessary preliminary measures for the purpose of this railway, had long before been completed, it was not before the famine of 1874 that the work was really commenced as a relief operation. But none, besides the officers themselves, knows the extent of relief which was granted thereby. Government makes a secret of everything; and thus all information bearing on this subject has been withheld from the public. There was, however, no end of elaborate "progressive reports" and supposed satisfactory results; though, as a matter of fact, of every hundred persons described as obtaining relief, scarcely five actually obtained it, and an extremely extravagant waste was manifest on all sides. It was all, however, written off to the famine accounts; and the person, who occasioned this loss to the public exchequer, has now been signalled out for thanks and honors. But the three natives employed on this railway, and through whose exertions alone the existence of distress in Raghunathpore was brought to the notice of Government, and who put forth strenuous efforts to relieve it, were not even mentioned in the Bankipore Durbar.

BHARAT  
SANGSKARAK.

8. Adverting to the high rate of mortality which now prevails in Calcutta, the same paper draws the attention of the Health Officer to the dirty and squalid condition of the native quarters of the city, and regrets that the Municipality bestows but little thought on their improvement. The drains, privies, and tanks in these parts reek with filth, and emit a horrible stench, which accounts for the large number of deaths among the native inhabitants of the metropolis.

HINDU RANJIK,  
December 20th, 1876.

9. The *Hindu Ranjikā*, of the 20th December, observes that now, when a closer bond of union between India and England is produced by the Queen's assumption of the Imperial title, the occasion is most opportune for



asking, on behalf of the natives of this country, some form of representative Government. The people in all British colonies and settlements enjoy this privilege; and, indeed, despotism is opposed to the genius of the British constitution. It is only in India that the English pursue a different line of policy, on the ground that such an institution is not suited to the people, who have all along lived under a despotic form of Government. We admit there is some truth in this plea. Its advocates, however, while urging it, do not take into consideration the altered condition of the people at the present time, when the spread of education and other blessings of Western civilization have fitted the natives to receive the privilege of a representative Government. Considering also that the latter is indisputably the better form of rule, there is no reason why it should not be conceded to the natives, simply on the ground that they never had it among them. The people are exhorted to agitate the subject.

10. The *Amrita Bazar Patriká*, of the 21st December, writes the following in an article headed—"Registration, the only means of checking all disputes." The tenantry have learnt to shew a systematic insubordination towards their landlords ever since the days of the Indigo riots, and Act X of 1859 completed their education in this respect. English education has introduced scepticism, and has subverted the very amiable relations which once subsisted between parents and children, master and servant, landlord and tenant. But for this change, the country would have made much progress, and been saved from the constant discords which have destroyed its peace. The tenantry, in those days, knew not what a law court was; the zemindar was the absolute dispenser of justice. Under such a system, injustice was often, as it is now, unavoidable. Parties, wholly innocent, sometimes suffered; yet not so much as at present. The zemindar, however oppressive, could not ruin a person so absolutely as the powerful machinery of the law-courts of the present day. The landlord, with his dependent tenantry, constituted a happy family. There was no difficulty experienced in the collection of rents; and the existence of mutual confidence between the parties conduced to the prosperity of both. Act X partially destroyed this happy state of things; and the work of destruction was completed by Sir George Campbell. The present Lieutenant-Governor, however, is trying, by means of legislation, to improve the relation between landlord and tenant; though, with what result, remains yet to be seen. We are afraid that his efforts in this direction will not check the prevalence of litigation. We are of opinion that much good will be done by Government affording facilities for the registration of leases and kabuliyats, and insisting on the parties who shall execute these documents, specifying their rights and obligations. Government will do well to appoint the headman of every village as a registration officer, and allow him the same remuneration as is now granted to the rural sub-registrars.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
December 21st, 1876.  
Circulation about 2,217.

11. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 21st December, urges on Government the propriety of restoring the Garo Hills to the Rajah of Susanga Durgapore, who is their rightful owner. Government deprived him of his due by passing a special law. The Rajah has incurred considerable expense in gaining his suit in the Privy Council; and, in justice to him, the act of restoration should not be delayed any longer.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
December 21st, 1876.  
Circulation about 650.

12. The same paper is gratified to read that, on the occasion of the Imperial Assemblage at Delhi, Lord Lytton will explain his views on the subject of the relations of Government with the press; when, it is hoped, the cause of the present dissatisfaction will be removed.

BHARAT MIHIR.



EDUCATION GAZETTE,  
December 22nd, 1876.  
Circulation about 1,168.

13. The *Education Gazette*, of the 22nd December, remarks that the disputes between landlords and tenants have now reached such a pitch that the country will never prosper, unless some means be devised for their speedy cessation. Sir Richard Temple, therefore, has earned the gratitude of the people by his efforts to solve the rent question. But from the right of enhancing the rent, proposed to be conferred on the zemindar, we are not sure whether the present Bill will be attended with success.

EDUCATION GAZETTE.

14. A correspondent of the same paper directs the attention of Government to the need of setting open the silted up channel of the Saraswatí, in the Burdwan district.

PRATIKAR,  
December 22nd, 1876.  
Circulation about 235.

15. The *Pratikár*, of the 22nd December, points out the inadequacy of the punishment inflicted on Mr. Damant, who had subjected a pleader of his court to the grossest indignities. Such cases clearly serve to show an invidious distinction always made by Government between European and Native offenders. The rest of the writer's remarks are the same as those noticed in paragraph 28 of our last report.

MOORSHEDABAD  
PATRIKA,  
December 22nd, 1876.

16. The *Moorshedabad Patriká*, of the 22nd December, regrets to notice that Government has this year considerably reduced its grant to the Education Department—and this too when schools are fast multiplying on all sides and female education is gaining ground. It is indeed to be deplored that Government thus discourages the only means of national advancement.

GRAMBARTA  
PRAKASHIKA,  
December 23rd, 1876.  
Circulation about 200.

17. The *Grámbártá Prakashiká*, of the 23rd December, reproduces the observations made by the *Soma Prakash*, and noticed in paragraph 26 of our last report on the administration of Sir Richard Temple.

HINDU HITOISHINI,  
December 23rd, 1876.

18. The *Hindu Hitoishini*, of the 23rd December, strongly urges on Government the need of introducing into Dacca, the Act for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

HINDU HITOISHINI.

19. The same paper, comparing the efficacy of inoculation and vaccination, gives preference to the former. It is therefore hard, according to the editor, that Government should introduce by force a practice amongst the people, the efficacy of which is open to question, and prohibit the other system which has been long established in the country.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
December 24th, 1876.

20. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 24th December, does not see why the Lieutenant-Governor, in reviewing the last report on the administration of the Jail Department, should have referred to the necessity of inflicting corporal punishments in the majority of criminal cases. The nature of the punishment to be inflicted ought to depend on the position of the offender; and it would be enough for all purposes of discipline if, in most cases, the courts would only impose a fine; and, in others, pass sentence of imprisonment or corporal chastisement according to the gravity of the crime. Such a plan will be greatly advantageous to all parties, especially to Government, which will thus be enabled to reduce its expenditure on jails, as also to derive a profit from fines. Besides, if arrangements are made for providing the prisoners with suitable food and clothing, and treating them with leniency, a great deal of work may be exacted from them; and the profits from the sale of jail manufactures will doubtless be considerable.

DACCA PRAKASH.

21. In noticing the recent Minute of the Lieutenant-Governor on the draft Rent Law, the same paper remarks as follows:—Though much has been evidently done in the Bill to fix the rent-rate and define the grounds of an enhancement of rent, still sufficient facilities have not been provided for



an easy realization of rents from the tenantry. It is not just in a Bill of this nature to lay down only the principles of enhancement and not those of abatement. The latter are entirely wanting. Will there be an abatement where rates of rent, found to be high according to the rules laid down in the Bill, prevail? We do not see why provision has not been made for enhancing the rent of the non-occupancy tenants. Besides, decennial settlements seem to us to cover a very long period. It does not appear that the realization of rents will be facilitated by the operation of this law. In the first place, it is not clear how arrears of rent are to be recovered, and to whom they are to be paid. Secondly, no provision is made for defaulting tenants forfeiting their occupancy rights. It would be better if Collectors were empowered to pay the landlords the rents deposited by their tenantry on proper securities being given. We hope the authorities will reconsider these matters.

22. In noticing the approaching retirement of Sir Richard Temple from the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal, the *Sádháraní*, of the 24th December, remarks that the popularity of his rule throws discredit on the character of both the Governor and the natives. Sir George Campbell was not appreciated because he cared not for popular favour and did what he thought best; his successor has done all for the doing of which that able administrator became unpopular, yet his ministering to the weakness of the natives has brought him fame and favor.

SADHARANI,  
December 24th, 1876.  
Circulation about 516.

23. The *Soma Prakásh*, of the 25th December, makes the following observations in its opening editorial:—Sir Richard Temple has become entitled to the gratitude of the people by his noble resolve to appoint a commission for the purpose of investigating into the subject of the malarious fevers, on which a book has recently been written by Baboo Digamber Mittra. We are not sure that the commission will meet with success in its efforts; but it is a subject which cannot be ignored or lightly dismissed, and the more it is discussed the better. The causes, to which, in Baboo Digamber's opinion, this fever owes its existence, do not appear to be improbable. The places which have undergone the most material changes in their physical aspects, as for instance those intersected by railways or canals, have suffered most from the prevalence of this terrible scourge. Along with this must be considered the changes which have of late years taken place as regards their habits of exercise and their dietary arrangements. Their old habits as to the time of taking their meals and hours of rest are suited to life in this tropical country. Untimely meals, want of sufficient rest, and overwork have ruined the health of the people, and caused so many premature deaths. There are also other causes. Among these may be mentioned the dense population congregating together, and living on the same spot for a long period of time. There has been no change in the articles of food nor in the mode of building houses. These all have induced a general loss of appetite and unhealthiness. Then there is the want of physical exercise, to which the natives have become naturally disinclined. The last defect will be removed by Government admitting natives of Bengal into the military service.

SOMA PRAKASH,  
December 25th, 1876.

24. The same paper has the following remarks, in an article headed the "Indian Cabinet." The Government, it is evident, cannot overcome its fondness for Durbars; which involve so much expenditure, and occasion so much difficulty to Native Princes. If such assemblages are really indispensable, it were well if they could be utilised in such a way as to conduce to the benefit of Government, the Native Chiefs, and the people in general. We therefore propose that grand assemblages should be occasionally held, composed of Native Chiefs and Government functionaries, for the purpose

SOMA PRAKASH.



of discussing political topics, and obtaining mutual counsel on all matters pertaining to the administration of the empire. The Native Princes, as well as Government, may send delegates to the Assembly. The suggestion, if carried out, will prove highly beneficial. Government can thus only become the true friends of the native princes, and be enabled to correct the defects of their administration, without, as at present, constantly and needlessly interfering in a way which cannot but be offensive to them. Thus also will their extravagance and waste be checked. While, on the other hand, immense benefits will accrue to Government and the people under its rule from the measure proposed. Natives will learn to discharge public duties, and the rulers be made acquainted with the wants and grievances of the people.

SOMA PRAKASH,  
December 25th, 1876.

25. The same paper dwells on the attitude of hostility shewn by the Anglo-Indian editors to all proposals for the advancement of the natives. Their behaviour is indeed singular. While they themselves will not do anything to benefit the natives, they are constantly dissuading Government also from its policy of favoring their interests. They are now doing this in reference to the proposal to raise some educated natives to the superior judgeships in the country. Government, however, will carry out its noble determination, if it is wise and really anxious to remove the reproach of partiality to Europeans, which is constantly cast upon it. Considerable saving also will be effected by this means.

BEHAR BANDHU,  
December 20th, 1876.

26. In an article, headed "There is no straw with which to thatch the roof, while there is dancing under the portico," the editor of the *Behar Bandhu* remarks that calamities have successively befallen Hindustan, ever since the Queen notified her intention to assume the title of Empress; for instance, a widespread and severe famine has visited those parts of the country, where famine was never before known; the Punjab and Cashmere have this year been visited with cholera, a disease hitherto unknown to them; and nearly one-half of Bengal has suffered from the recent cyclone. In addition to all this, and whilst the prospects of war threaten in Europe, the Indian Government has fallen out with the Ruler of Cabul, who has not only refused an invitation to the Durbar, but has couched his refusal in insulting language; and it is very surprising to observe the heads of Government, at such a critical period, going mad with preparations for the festivities of the Imperial Assemblage. Such was the case when, while the Duke of Wellington was with his officers feasting and dancing in the house of the Duchess of Richmond, intelligence came of the advance of the French army under Napoleon on North Belgium; and though he succeeded in averting the threatened disaster, he was nevertheless blamed for his want of caution. Does the Indian Government too boast the possession of the same skill and diligence as Wellington? In the midst of active preparations to aid Turkey, and to strengthen Aden and Bombay, Government will not relax its efforts in respect of the Delhi Durbar; and this too whilst one part of India is suffering from famine, and a portion of Bengal has been submerged and its inhabitants drowned, and whilst rumours of wars are heard. Government has become insolvent and unable to pay the salaries of its servants in the lower grades, and a few teachers in the Educational Department; but in respect of the Durbar it has become the richest of the rich.

BEHAR BANDHU.

27. An anonymous correspondent, writing to this paper under date the 19th December, urges on his countrymen the necessity of educating their females; and advises them to do so independently of Government, which has already done much. He points out the great superiority attained in



Europe by a system where the females, through the high education they receive, have proved themselves of great service to the land. He concludes by calling on his fellow countrymen of the upper classes to subscribe even Rs. 10 each towards such an object.

28. The *Urdu Guide* translates verbatim an editorial in Bengali from the *Amrita Bazar Patriká*; and adds that the Bengali paper has fallen into many errors regarding the principles and tenets of the Muhammadan religion. He denies *in toto* the allegation that, by murdering and plundering *káfirs*, heaven is to be attained; and on the contrary states that no Mussulman king is permitted to proclaim a *jehad* against *káfirs*, unless he is first able to show that good and substantial reasons exist for so doing; while the life and prospect of a *kafir* subject are to be respected in the same degree as a Moslem's. On the other hand, if a *káfir* ryot rebels and dispossesses the king of any portion of his territory, then slaughter becomes lawful; and in this case a Mussulman subject would share the same fate. All rulers follow this law; and so is *Turkey* now, in punishing the Servians. Were it true that the Mussulmans hated those of other creeds to the very death, then how comes it that Hindoos and Mussulmans are treated alike under Mussulman administration. How can the Moslems of India aid the Sultan, or join him in fighting against the rebels? All that they can do is to succour but feebly the wounded, and the families of those who have fallen in battle. There is not the least doubt, however, that, if Russia openly declares war against Turkey, it will become incumbent on the Muhammadan rulers of Arabia and Persia to assist him, when the carnage will extend from the shores of the Black Sea to those of the Red Sea, and the blood of both Christians and Mussulmans flow in rivers. In the matter of subscriptions, too, the editor of the *Urdu Guide* remarks that his Bengali contemporary is wrong, inasmuch as not Rs. 10,000 only, but Rs. 22,406 have been already sent, and another instalment is being raised.

URDU GUIDE,  
December 23rd, 1876.  
Circulation about 400.

29. The *Qásid* reproaches its fellow countrymen for their neglect of education and social improvement, as also for their waste of time and talent in the indulgence of mere sports and childish games. The editor recommends rich parents to see to their legacies during their lifetime, by appointing trustees, and fixing sums, which should be expended in no other way than in educating their children; who should, during their period of tutelage, be allowed certain fixed stipends, and not unlimited control over their patrimony, to be wasted in idleness and riotous living and pleasure.

QASID, OR "THE  
MESSENGER,"  
December 28th, 1876.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 30th December 1876.

JOHN ROBINSON,

Government Bengali Translator.



*List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending  
the 30th December 1876.*

No.	Name.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Bishwa Suhrid" ...	Mymensingh ...	Weekly ...	18th December 1876.
2	"Rungpore Dik Prakásh" ...	Kákinia, Rungpore ...	Ditto ...	14th ditto.
3	"Bhárat Sangskarak" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	18th ditto.
4	"Hindu Ranjiká" ...	Bauleah, Rajshahye ...	Ditto ...	20th ditto.
5	"Bhárat Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	Ditto ...	21st ditto.
6	"Amrita Bazar Patriká" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	21st ditto.
7	"Samáj Darpan" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	22nd ditto.
8	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	Ditto ...	22nd ditto.
9	"Pratikár" ...	Berhampore ...	Ditto ...	22nd ditto.
10	"Moorshedabad Patriká" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	22nd ditto.
11	"Moorshedabad Pratinidhi" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	22nd ditto.
12	"Grámbártá Prakáshiká" ...	Comercolly ...	Ditto ...	23rd ditto.
13	"Hindu Hitoishini" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	23rd ditto.
14	"Dacca Prakásh" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	24th ditto.
15	"Sádháraní" ...	Chinsurah ...	Ditto ...	24th ditto.
16	"Howrah Hitakarí" ...	Bethar, Howrah ...	Ditto ...	24th ditto.
17	"Soma Prakásh" ...	Bhowanipore ...	Ditto ...	25th ditto.
18	"Sulabha Samáchar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	26th ditto.
19	"Samáchar Chandriká" ...	Ditto ...	Daily ...	26th ditto.
20	"Sambád Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	21st & 22nd December 1876.
21	"Behár Bandhu" (in <i>Hindi</i> ) ...	Bankipore, Patna ...	Weekly ...	20th December 1876.
22	"Urdu Guide" (in <i>Urdu</i> ) ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	23rd ditto.
23	"Qásid" (in <i>Urdu</i> ) ...	Patna ...	Ditto ...	25th ditto.

Bengal Secretariat Press.



